

CLAIMS

1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A method of communication of conversational data signals between terminals over a radio link capable of full-duplex transmission of conversational data packets in alternate directions within a pair of time slots, said communication comprising time periods each comprising a set of said pairs of time slots, and said terminals comprising respective reception and transmission means for use in processing said conversational data packets respectively received at and transmitted from the corresponding terminal, the method comprising:

detecting local conversational activity at each of said terminals respectively, sending conversational activity signals indicative of the local conversational activity condition from each of said terminals to the other terminal;

controlling said reception and transmission means to communicate by half-duplex transmission of said conversational data packets in response to conversational activity at a first one of said terminals but not at the second one of said terminals; and

at least partially deactivating said reception means at said first terminal and said transmission means at said second terminal during said half-duplex transmission so as to reduce their power consumption.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein controlling said reception means and said transmission means comprises at least partially switching off the supplies of power to said reception means and said transmission means.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein controlling said reception and transmission means comprises generating audible comfort noise at said first terminal from a locally generated comfort noise signal during said half-duplex transmission.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said conversational data packets are communicated without return transmission of acknowledgement signals.
15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said conversational data packets comprise voice signals and the duration of said time periods corresponds to a phoneme period.
16. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said conversational data packets are transmitted between said terminals over said radio link substantially in conformity with the Bluetooth standard.
17. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said conversational activity signals are distinct from said conversational data packets.
18. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said local conversational activity detection is performed during each of said time periods at each of said terminals, and said conversational activity signals are sent from each of the terminals to the other terminal at least once during each of said time periods.
19. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in 18 where conversational activity signals are sent from each of the terminals to the other terminal in the same time slot pair and control the half-duplex transmission direction for the next time period
20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least a first one of said terminals communicates with a third terminal over a further communication link, said first terminal signalling a conversational activity signal indicative of conversational activity generated at said third terminal.
21. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the same activity procedure is used in synchronization between all said terminals.
22. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein a different activity procedure is used in synchronization between one of said terminals and another of

said terminals (A) than between said one of said terminals and a third one of said terminals.

23. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said further communication link is a cellular telephone link.

24. (Previously Presented) A terminal comprising:

reception and transmission means for use in processing said conversational data packets;

radio link means for communicating conversational data packets over said radio link capable of full-duplex transmission of conversational data packets in alternate directions within a pair of time slots, said communication comprising time periods each comprising a set of said pairs of time slots, conversational activity detection means for detecting local conversational activity at said terminal, signalling means for sending in each of said periods a conversational activity signal indicative of the local conversational activity from the local terminal to said other terminal, and control means responsive to conversational activity occurring at a first one of said terminals and not occurring at the second one of said terminals for controlling said reception and transmission means to communicate by half-duplex transmission of said conversational data packets and for at least partially deactivating during said half-duplex transmission either said reception means in the absence of remote conversational activity or said transmission means in the absence of local conversational activity so as to reduce power consumption.

25. (Currently Amended) A terminal as claimed in claim ~~[[23]]~~ 24 wherein said control means comprises means for at least partially switching off the supplies of power to said reception means and said transmission means during said half-duplex transmission.

26. (Currently Amended) A terminal as claimed in claim ~~[[23]]~~ 24, wherein said control means comprises means for generating audible comfort noise from a locally generated comfort noise signal during said half-duplex transmission.

27. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein controlling said reception and transmission means comprises generating audible comfort noise at said first terminal from a locally generated comfort noise signal during said half-duplex transmission.
28. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said conversational data packets are communicated without return transmission of acknowledgement signals.